

25X1

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2003/02/27 : CIA-RDP79B01709A001400050007-6

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

29 November 1973

MEMORANDUM:

SUBJECT : Current Need for Middle East Photo Reconnaissance

NRO  
25X1  
25X1D

1. Intelligence community components have identified the following specific substantive problems against which a recommended GIANT REACH mission would be directed.

25X1D

2. No information has been identified in the satellite materials which generates an urgent need for immediate follow-up photography. The main substantive problems which would benefit from current GIANT REACH photography are the following:

a. Coverage of the Duma area near Damascus continues to be inconclusive as to the presence or absence of Soviet combat units. High-resolution coverage with the SR-71 tech objective camera plus the additional comparative coverage that would be obtained may provide insight on this question, although it cannot be guaranteed.

25X1D

25X1

TOP SECRET

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/02/27 : CIA-RDP79B01709A001400050007-6

WARNING: DO NOT  
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES  
AND METHODS INVOLVED

25X1

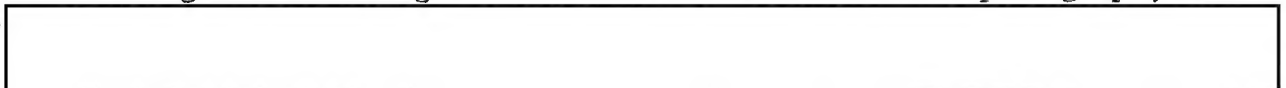


TOP SECRET

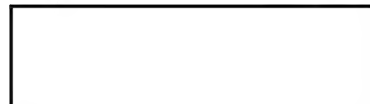
c. The satellite coverage continues to be inconclusive on SCUD activity. Additional coverage would provide some possibility of providing data on this problem.

3. The primary value of the GIANT REACH mission at this time would be to provide a very current update of the region at a time when conditions in the region remain fragile. The next increment of satellite photography will

NRO  
25X1



4. On balance, if there are no political reasons for avoiding reconnaissance overflight of the region, community components would recommend a GIANT REACH mission during the coming week. DoD elements are pressing hardest for such a mission. There are, however, no identified specific problems for which there is an identified current critical need for GIANT REACH coverage.



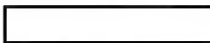
25X1

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Intelligence Officer  
for the Middle East

Sam:

Attached is a review of the current need for Middle East photo reconnaissance. As you will see, it boils down to a question of whether there are political reasons for avoiding an overflight in the region. If these are minimal, the community consensus would be to have a GIANT REACH mission to provide current information at a time when there are many uncertainties about the situation in the area.

25X1A



29 November 1973  
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101  
1 AUG 54

REPLACES FORM 10-101  
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

*Chromo*

MEMORANDUM FOR: DDI

Ed:

FYI attached is the memo sent to [redacted] this morning concerning need for Middle East photo recce. I also discussed it with him. We also reviewed its content at today's COMIREX meeting.

25X1A

[redacted]

29 November 1973  
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101  
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)